Articles of Enquiry,

IN A

PAROCHIAL VISITATION

OF THE

CHURCHES

(As well Exempt as not Exempt)

In the City of LONDON, and Liberties thereof,

Made as well by the Most Reverend Father In GOD

JOHN,

By the Providence of GOD, Lord Arch-Bishop of CANTERBURY, Primate and Metropolitane of all *England*; as by the Right Reverend Father in GOD

HENRY,

By Divine Permission, Lord Bishop of LONDON; And the Reverend

William Sherlock, Doctor of Divinity, Dean of the Cathedral Church of S. *Paul.*

LONDON: Printed for *W. Kettilby*, at the *Bishop's Head* in S. *Paul's* Church-Yard, 1693.

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ENQUIRIES IN Parochial Visitation.

I.

IS there, or was there before the Fire, within your Parish, a Parsonage or Vicaridge-House for the dwelling of your Minister? If it were burnt down, is it since Leased out, and Rebuilt, to whom? At what Ground-Rent, and for what Term? Have you a Survey, or Map of it, and of the Yard and Gardens (if any) containing the exact Dimensions of them? Is the Lease confirmed in due form of Law, and where is it Registred? And have you any other Houses (besides your Residence-House) or any other Glebes belonging to your Benefice, and what are they?

II.

Is the Annual Revenue (or Sum of Money in lieu of Tythes) which was setled by Act of Parliament 22. & 23. Car. II. & 15. for the certain Annual Maintenance of your Minister, assessed and ascertained, in such Manner, by such Persons, and within such Time, as the said Act limits and appoints? And if not, through whose default was it? If the Assessment be made, are there three Transcripts of it in Parchment subscribed by the Assessors, and sent to be laid up among the Records of the City, in the Registry of the Bishop of London, and in the Vestry of your

Churches, and what other perquisites, Gifts or Bequests (besides the said setled maintenance) are, or were, before that Setlement due to your Minister, and his Successors, from the Impropriator, or any other persons?

III.

Are there in the Re-building of the City, or otherwise, any Encroachments made upon your Church, or Church-yard? Is any part of either put to common use, or any part of them, or of the Minister's House or Glebes, taken into any other Persons House, Yard, or Passage? By whom and by what Authority was it done?

IV.

What Plate, Books, Bells, and other Furniture or Ornaments, have you belonging to your Church? Have you all such (at least) as the Rubrick and Canon expressly require? Are there true Inventories of them kept, and from time to time duely examined? If any Church or Churches have been lately united to your present Parish-Church, what is become of the Plate, Books, Bells and other Furniture of the Churches left unbuilt? As also of the Lead, Brass, Stone, Iron and other Materials that remained after the Fire? And to what use is the Site or Soil of the unbuilt Churches now employed?

V.

Hath your Minister any other Benefice with Cure of Souls, besides that of your Parish? Where and at what distance, and of what value is it? How doth he divide and apportion his residence to his several Cures? And when he is Resident hereabouts, doth he constantly live in his Incumbents House, if there be one not Leased out, (or if he can conveniently hire it of the Lessee) or at least somewhere within the Bounds of the Parish?

VI. If

VI.

If your Minister keeps a Curate to assist him, whether is he such an One as hath no Benefice of his own with Cure of Souls, from which he absents himself? Is he duly Licensed by the Bishop? What Sallary doth your Minister allow him? And when he reads Prayers, is your Minister himself constantly present at them?

VII.

Have you a Lecturer in your Church, and who is it? Was he before he entred upon his Lecture, Approved and Licensed according to the late Act of Uniformity? Doth he upon the first Sunday in every Month duely perform all that the said Act requires of him? Hath he any Benefice of his own with Cure of Souls elsewhere? What Sallary doth he receive from the Minister or Parish?

VIII.

Doth your Minister or his Curate (diligently and openly in the Church,) Catechise the Youth of your Parish on every Sunday in the Afternoon, and Holy-days, as the Rubrick and Canon requires?

IX.

Is the different Use and Ministration of Publick and Private Baptism duely observed by your Minister and Curate, according to the directions in the Liturgy? Or do they make a common practice of Baptizing Children in private Houses, or do it at any time without great Cause and Necessity, as the Rubrick limits it, that is (as the 69*th* Canon explains it) when they are duely without any manner of Collusion informed of the weakness and danger of Death of any Infant to be Baptized? And when such need compels them to perform this great and solemn Office in private, do they use only the Form of Private Baptism,

Baptism prescribed by the Liturgy? And as soon as the said necessity ceaseth, and it may safely be done, do they cause the Child so baptized to be brought to Church, that the Congregation may be certified what Form of Baptism was privately used, and that such supply may be made to the Office, as is needful and appointed?

X.

When the Holy Communion is Administred, Are the Alms and Oblations of devout Persons duly collected or received? Are they constantly disposed of to pious and charitable Uses, by the consent of the Minister and Church-Wardens; or, if they disagree, by the Appointment of the Ordinary? Is there an exact Account taken and kept in Writing, of all such Summs as are given and received at the Offertory, or upon other occasions put into the Chest for Alms? And how much hath been the last Year so given and received, and how is it disposed off?

XI.

What Bequests and Legacies, or other charitable Gifts, have been by Will, or otherwise, given to your Church or Poor, or to any publick Uses within your Parish? How are they setled, and in whose hands? Is there a Memorial or Register kept of the Names of such Benefactors, and a Particular of the Summs by them given? And hath not your Charity been misimployed, and directed to other uses? Hath not the Money for the Repairs of the Church been employed for the relief of the Poor? Let the Summs and Times be set down, and out of what Profits and Rents arising.

XII.

Have you a Register-Book of Parchment, wherein the Names and Sirnames of all Persons Christned, Married, or Buried, within your Parish, together with the Names and Sirnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christened,

ned, and the Day, Month, and Year of all such Christnings, Marriages and Burials, are from time to time duly Registred every Sunday, as the 70th. Canon enjoyns? Have your Minister and Church-Wardens subscribed their Names unto every Page of the said Book? Is it safely kept in a sure Coffer, with three Locks and Keys, so that neither the Minister without the Church-Wardens, nor the Church-Wardens without the Minister, may at any time take it out of the said Coffers? And hath the Transcript, or true copy thereof, (subscribed as before) once every Year, within one Month after the 25th. of March, been transmitted unto the Ordinary, to be faithfully preserved in the Registry of the Bishoprick?

XIII.

Doth your Minister, or Curate, presume to Marry any Persons in private Houses, or at undue, or uncanonical Hours? Or any, whose Banns have not been first published on three Sundays or Holidays in the Church, unless he hath a Licence or Dispensation so to do? How many such Licences have they, or either of them received and made use of, within the Year last past, (and to supersede all further Questions about the Regularity and Validity of such Licences,) let them be all produced, that they may be viewed and examined by the Canons?

XIV.

Are there any Free-Schools in your Parish? Who are the respective School-Masters of them? What other Persons teach Grammar in your Parish? Let their several Names be set down, and how long they have taught there?

FINIS.